

Appl. No. 10/018,454
Amendment and/or Response
Reply to Office action of 21 December 2005

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REMARKS / DISCUSSION OF ISSUES

Claims 12-51 are pending in the application. Claim 11 is canceled herein.

The applicant thanks the Examiner for acknowledging the claim for priority and receipt of certified copies of all the priority documents.

The Office action indicates that claim 12 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, including all of the limitations of its base claim. Claim 12 is correspondingly amended, and each of the dependent claims 13-51 are now dependent upon claim 12.

In view of the foregoing, the applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the rejections of record, allow all the pending claims, and find the application to be in condition for allowance. If any points remain in issue that may best be resolved through a personal or telephonic interview, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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